

REMARKS

Claims 13-38 are presently pending. Claim 33 has been amended to specify that the splitter has a surface for engaging and radially spreading the spring-to-plunger coupler. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0024] and [0053] of the published application (i.e., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0054327). No new matter has been added by any claim amendment.

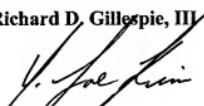
The Examiner's consideration of this Supplemental Amendment in conjunction with the Amendment filed September 1, 2009 is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections as set forth in the Office Action dated June 4, 2009 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 13-38, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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